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B.C. cabinet ministers are sworn in yesterday at Government House in Victoria. Front roll, from left: Joan McIntyre, Bill Bennett, Iain Black, Mary Polak, Blair Lekstrom. Back row: existing ministers, some with new duties: Tom Christensen, Ida Chong, Kevin Krueger, Rich Coleman, Pat Bell, Colin Hansen, Barry Penner, Stan Hagen, Murray Coell.

The Campbell shuffle

Five backbenchers moved up as seven ministers shifted

By **JEFF HODSON**
Metro Vancouver

Premier Gordon Campbell shuffled his cabinet yesterday to fill the holes created by the departure of four MLAs who are not seeking re-election in May 2009.

The realignment included promoting five former backbench Liberal MLAs and shifting the portfolios of seven ministers.

"Our government will continue to work as a team, concentrating on the issues that all British Columbians have told us are important to them," said Campbell in a release, of the team that he will lead into the spring election.

Yesterday's shuffle was prompted by the pending departure of ministers Carole Taylor (finance), Claude Richmond (employment and income assistance), Olga Ilich (labour) and Rick Thorpe (small business).

thank yous

» Campbell thanked his former ministers, saying each one brought unique skills, abilities and insights to the job and had a positive impact on the province.

Of the changes yesterday, the most significant was the return of Colin Hansen as finance minister.

Hansen, formerly the Minister of Economic Development and the Olympics, was finance minister in 2004 and 2005, but was replaced by Taylor after the 2005 provincial election. He retains the Olympics as part of his portfolio.

Taylor, formerly chair of the CBC and one of Campbell's star candidates in 2005, announced late last year that she would not be seeking re-election. At the time it was speculated that she might run for mayor of Vancouver.

In another significant move, Rich Coleman was dropped as forest minister, a ministry beset by a devastating mountain pine beetle epidemic and low lumber prices because of slow housing starts in the U.S.

Coleman will continue as housing minister and will assume the employment and income assistance portfolio under the name: social development.

Pat Bell takes over as minister of forests and range from agriculture.

Other shifts include moving Stan Hagan to agriculture from tourism and Gordon Hogg to mining from children and family development.

Kevin Kruger moves to small business from mines and Ida Chong moves to technology from community services.

New ministers are Blair Lekstrom (community development), Mary Polak (healthy living and sport), Iain Black (labour and citizens' services) and Bill Bennett (tourism, culture and the arts).

Bennett, formerly minister of state for mining, had resigned from cabinet last February after sending an angry e-mail to a constituent.

Joan McIntyre was also named minister of state for intergovernmental relations.

Canadian trial starts over U.K. bomb plot

A Canadian man was responsible for designing and creating a remote-controlled bomb detonator as part of a plot to attack populated areas of the United Kingdom, an Ottawa courtroom heard yesterday.

Mohammad Momin Khawaja, 29, created the device he called the "Hi-Fi Digimonster" as his part of a plot to build a bomb made from 600 kilograms of ammonium nitrate-based fertilizer, prosecutor David McKercher charged yesterday.

Khawaja is the first Canadian to be charged under a post-9/11 anti-terrorism law, and faces seven terror-related charges. He pleaded not guilty to all counts, but faces life in prison if convicted.

McKercher alleged that Khawaja attended a paramilitary training camp in Pakistan and met with members of terrorist groups to show the device he had built.

A police search of Khawaja's home found semi-automatic weapons, ammunition and guerrilla books.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

MORE COVERAGE PAGE 5

Boys critical after nearly drowning

Two young boys are in critical condition after nearly drowning in a backyard swimming pool in Delta.

The toddlers, ages two and three, were at a gathering of extended family when they were found unresponsive in the family pool at about 6 p.m., Delta police said yesterday.

One boy was taken to B.C. Children's hospital and the other was taken to Surrey Memorial Hospital.

The boys were not related and did not live in the house where the incident occurred. Police said there were no signs of foul play and more medical tests are being conducted. The results are expected today.

ANDREA WOO/FOR METRO NEWS

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local

Another mad cow has been discovered in B.C. by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The latest discovery is the third case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy in the province in three years. The CFIA is not releasing the animal's location. SOURCE: NEWS1130.COM

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ROGERS

Interview with a thief

Chronic offender tells police justice system 'ridiculous'

By **ANDREA WOO**
for Metro Vancouver

A chronic thief who turned himself in looking for help has become the newest ally of the Vancouver Police Department.

Last week, Police Chief Jim Chu introduced the phrase "ludicrous chronic offenders" and called for them to receive significantly longer jail sentences — a so-called "30 strikes and you're out" rule.

Over the weekend, a 32-year-old man with 26 convictions agreed to be interviewed by Const. Tim Russell on the condition of anonymity.

The VPD presented video footage of the interview to local media yesterday, with the man's face concealed and voice altered.

The Vancouver man, who was convicted of his first property crime at age 14, condemned the justice system for being too lenient.

"It's ridiculous," said the man of current probation and conditional sentence orders. "Look how many people come in and out of those doors. The same people, continuously, for the past 10 years."

He also said he was able to avoid probation by simply not reporting in to his probation officer.

"If you didn't show up, they never knew about you," he said. "They never knew. If you look in my record, I don't have one breach."

The solution, he said, is longer prison sentences that offer treatment programs.

"It's taken me all these years to get this far into this addiction, this deep into it. The way I look at it, it's going to take me that long to get out of it."

The man is currently awaiting trial for a break-and-enter charge. Deputy Chief Doug LePard said the police made no promises to the man in exchange for the interview.

shortcomings

» Last week, VPD identified three "ludicrous chronic offenders" who have a total of more than 400 convictions as examples of the current system's shortcomings.

ANDREA WOO/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Insp. Rob Rothwell presents video footage of an interview with a chronic offender yesterday.

Pipe bomb found by citizen on walk

A Langley resident out for a walk made an explosive discovery yesterday.

According to the RCMP, the person found a powerful homemade pipe bomb in the 4500 block of 202 Street. If detonated, it could have affected an area half a mile wide, causing significant damage, risk of injury or possible death, said police.

The bomb measured three by two inches and had a fuse at one end. It was located near a hydro line that runs from 200 Street east to the 20600 block of 44 Avenue and was surrounded by residential development.

Police was called about the bomb at 6:40 a.m. Officers quickly cordoned off the area and the RCMP Explosive Disposal Unit attended. A search of the area resulted in no other devices being found.

ANDREA WOO/FOR METRO NEWS

»news In Brief

» **RESCUE** A 21-year-old man who barricaded himself inside a burning home was rescued by two Abbotsford police officers yesterday, news1130.com reports. The man had started the fire to kill himself.

» **MIGRANTS** Mexicans responding to an ad for work in Canada in exchange for money were refused entry at YVR in an incident Canada Border Services yesterday called unusual, cknw.com reports. The migrants landed Friday and were held until a return flight to Mexico.

» **ATTACK** A Surrey woman had to put down her Bichon Frise after it was wounded by what she believes were three pit bulls, CBC News Online reports. The attack took place near 160 Street and 20th Avenue.

» **HEALTH** A lack of specialized post-op nurses at Children's Hospital has forced a number of elective surgeries to be cancelled, news1130.com reports.

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The Vancouver-Whistler 2010 Speed Skating Oval, left, is being featured in London at the Festival of Architecture that opens today. An exhibition titled Vancouverism highlights unique West Coast structures and buildings.

SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE

Missing man fled to Mexico

Bouchard, 20, says he was robbed on secret getaway

By **ANDREA WOO**
for Metro Vancouver

Daniel Bouchard, 20, seen here in a Facebook photo, returned home from Mexico Saturday.

The White Rock man who was missing for two weeks returned home Saturday with a tale of being robbed while in Mexico.

Daniel Bouchard, 20, was last seen walking home after drinking at a White Rock pub June 9. Friends and family circulated posters, fearing he was the latest victim in a string of men across the Lower Mainland to have gone missing.

Yesterday, his father, also named Daniel Bouchard, said that his son, wanting a break from the stresses of daily life, fled to Mexico by himself on June 10 without telling anyone. Upon arriving, he took a cab to a bus station, where he said three men robbed him.

"He had no money, no clothes," said his father. "They took everything. He had his shorts and his T-shirt and that was it."

With too much pride to call home and explain what had happened, Daniel Bouchard Jr. told his father that he wandered the beaches until he met a couple that spoke a bit of English.

"They had no money but they said they'd give him a meal a day if he painted their house," said Bouchard Sr. "Finally, he just buckled on Friday and called and said, 'I need to come home.'"

Bouchard Sr. booked a flight home for his son.

apology

» Bouchard Jr. apologized yesterday, saying he has a problem with pride and has difficulty asking for help.

Scrap the carbon tax, NDP urges

But minister blasts call as 'political opportunism'

By **JEFF HODSON**
Metro Vancouver

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

NDP Leader Carole James, centre, with Surrey MLAs Harry Bains, left, Jagrup Brar and Sue Hammell, right, protests the provincial carbon tax in Cloverdale yesterday. The tax takes effect July 1.

New Democrat Leader Carole James wants Premier Gordon Campbell to scrap the carbon tax before it takes effect next week.

"People are really angry," said James, who protested the impending tax in Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon's Surrey-Cloverdale riding yesterday with four Surrey NDP MLAs.

Environment Minister Barry Penner, however, called the NDP campaign "political opportunism of the worst kind."

"Climate change is going to affect future generations," Penner said.

« It may be revenue neutral for government, but it's clearly not revenue neutral for families. »
NDP Leader Carole James

The carbon tax, which was unveiled in February by former finance minister Carole Taylor, begins July 1 and will initially raise gas prices by 2.4 cents per litre. By 2012 the tax will rise to 7.2 cents per litre.

Environmental groups, such as the David Suzuki Foundation, have called a carbon tax a "powerful incentive" to pollute less and invest in green technology.

Corporate and income tax cuts, as well as a credit for low-income families and a one-time $100 climate-action dividend, make the tax revenue neutral.

"It may be revenue neutral for government, but it's clearly not revenue neutral for families," James said.

"Families aren't simply paying the increase in the gas price. They're paying the increase in the price of food, in the increase in the price of ferries."

Penner said the NDP is being "disingenuous or dishonest" and points to the party's recently released Framework for Real Climate Action calls for a "carbon tax at source," the cost of which would presumably be passed on to consumers.

-jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

in the mail

» The $100 climate action dividend will be mailed in late June.

50 greensters vie for pod of Belugas

Vancouverite on shortlist for title of most Earth-friendly

An online competition has narrowed to 50 the number of people fighting for the title of the planet's greenest person.

The competition, launched in April by Boyd Cohen, an assistant professor at Simon Fraser University, aims to find the most environmentally friendly person.

Among the finalists is Emily (no last name given) from Vancouver who grows food on the balcony of her small, shared apartment. Matthias, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is working to green the manufacturing of cement.

More than 600 people from 25 countries entered the contest since it launched two months ago on Cohen's website *3rdwhale.com*.

The winner of each country, chosen by votes, will be announced in August and the greenest person in the world will be announced Sept. 16.

The winner will have a pod of Belugas adopted in their name.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

contest

» Contestants answered 20 questions and had to submit a short essay on why they were the greenest on the planet.

oscar nominee

Local filmmaker dies of cancer

VINCE Vancouver film producer Bill Vince, known for such hits as Dead Heat, Samurai Cowboy, Underworld and Air Bud films, died of cancer yesterday.

The 44-year-old Vince was an Oscar-nominee for his work on Capote. He recently produced The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus, starring Dustin Hoffman and actor Heath Ledger, who died in January. He was currently working on a science fiction movie titled Push with director Paul McGuigan.

Vince is survived by his wife and three children. He got into producing films with his brother Robert in the 1990s and went on to co-found the Vancouver-based production company Infinity Features.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports **Aboriginal centre**

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Alex Nelson, executive director of the Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Association of B.C., speaks at the unveiling of the Aboriginal Sport Gallery at the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame and Museum at B.C. Place yesterday.

»news In Brief

» **ZIPLINE** Starting this weekend Grouse Mountain is adding ziplining to its list of summer activities, news1130.com reports. For $70 enthusiasts can soar on Air Grouse Mountain Ziplines at a top speed of more than 50 km/h on a three-line circuit suspended over the Blue Grouse Lake area.

» **HIGH-SPEED** A theft of 250 metres of cable near the Surrey RCMP detachment has left hundreds of residents with no high-speed, phone or 9-1-1 service, news1130.com reports. Telus crews arrived on scene early yesterday morning and were working throughout the day to restore the service.

» **GASIFICATION** Three to six gasification plants to burn garbage thrown out in Metro Vancouver are being considered, cknw.com reports. A public forum on the initiative was held in Abbotsford yesterday evening to discuss the proposal.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

canada

A debate over unleashed dog rights in a Toronto neighbourhood could be connected to the poisoning of at least six animals over the weekend, said a Toronto police investigator yesterday. Six dogs fell ill after drinking from a hydrant that had traces of antifreeze. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Evidence 'unfair': Lawyer

Khawaja's attorney interrupts first witness' testimony

The lawyer for Momin Khawaja interrupted the prosecution's first witness at the Ottawa man's terror trial yesterday, claiming much of the man's testimony hinged on hearsay.

"This is an iceberg and we're just seeing the tip of it," Ottawa lawyer Lawrence Greenspon told the judge, referring to the testimony of Crown witness, Mohammed Junaid Babar.

Greenspon argued that much of what Babar — a convicted al-Qaida supporter-turned-informant — said about his client was based on what third parties told him.

ETIENNE RANGER/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Azra Khawaja, left, and Mahboob Khawaja, the parents of Mohammad Momin Khawaja, leave the Ottawa courthouse yesterday during a break in their son's terror trial.

Yesterday in court, Babar said an associate in London told him that "someone from Canada was coming" and that this Canadian had a house in Pakistan that the group could use.

"The evidence is prejudicial, unfair, and Mr. Khawaja is not going to have much of an opportunity to answer it because the persons who supposedly made these comments to Mr. Babar are not being produced," Greenspon later told reporters.

Khawaja, of Orleans, is accused of designing a remote bomb detonator to be used in planned attacks in the United Kingdom. REUTERS

Emerson likely to stay in foreign affairs

Harper expected to make minor cabinet shuffle

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says his upcoming cabinet shuffle, expected any day now that Parliament has broken for the summer, will be a minor tweak to the ministerial ranks to fill the gap left by Maxime Bernier's departure as foreign affairs minister.

Harper asked International Trade Minister David Emerson to step into the foreign affairs post temporarily when Bernier resigned last month after leaving classified documents at the home of ex-girlfriend Julie Couillard.

Emerson will attend the G-8 foreign ministers' meetings in Japan this week and many expect him to be asked to continue in the role, although he and Harper have different views of how to approach China. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

»news In Brief

» **EDMONTON** The Canadian military and police are investigating after a woman found a package containing a brand new hand grenade in her backyard on Sunday.

» **CARBON** The carbon tax plan announced last week by Stéphane Dion would damage the interests of people and businesses if implemented, Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Advertising Feature

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The Seoul City Tour offers the ultimate seven-hour experience of the capital city for travellers stopping over for the day. The Tour showcases some of Seoul's most famous attractions, including the Myeong-dong, Insa-dong, Namdaemun and Dongdaemum markets, the National Museum of Korea and Changdeokgung Palace, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site.

The city of Gaeseong, North Korea, was recently opened to travellers from South Korea last December and is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that can be accessed for day-long trips from Seoul. As the 500-year-old capital city of the Goryeo Dynasty (AD 918~1392), the city holds great cultural and historical value. Major attractions include Bakyeon Falls, Seonjuk Bridge, Buddhist temples and the Goryeo Museum.

Flights heading further onwards toward other Asian destinations frequently stop in at Incheon as the airport is a primary point of access to Japan, mainland China, Thailand and Malaysia. This makes Seoul an ideal stopover point for travellers no matter what their Asian travel plans may be.

Question: **Which airport was voted as the "World's Best Airport" for customer service by global airports body Airports Council International of Geneva in 2007?**

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A4: Incheon International Airport

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world

In a study of more than 3 million adults, scientists in Texas found that hospital patients who abused amphetamines were 61 per cent more likely than other people to be treated for a heart attack. REUTERS

UN blasts Zimbabwe vote

Security Council says fair election 'impossible'

The UN Security Council declared yesterday that a free and fair run-off presidential election in Zimbabwe would be impossible now due to violence and restrictions on the opposition.

The nonbinding statement, the council's first formal action on Zimbabwe, was adopted unanimously. This means it had the backing of South Africa, China and Russia, which had long opposed any council discussion of the crisis in Zimbabwe.

> « *... The restrictions on the political opposition have made it impossible for a free and fair election to take place on June 27.* »
> UN Security Council statement

"The Security Council regrets that the campaign of violence and the restrictions on the political opposition have made it impossible for a free and fair election to take place on June 27," the statement said.

But Zimbabwe's UN envoy said the vote would go ahead despite the statement. "As far as we are concerned, the election will take place on Friday," Boniface Chidyausiku told reporters.

The Security Council text was watered down from an earlier version, which explicitly blamed President Robert Mugabe's government for the crisis and said opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai would be the legitimate leader if a credible run-off election cannot be held.

However, the final version says the council "notes that the results of the 29 March 2008 elections must be respected." REUTERS

U.S. troops kill 55 Taliban in ambush

Eastern front sees rise in violence

town captured

» Pakistani militants loyal to Taliban commander Baitullah Mehsud captured a town at the entrance to the South Waziristan tribal region yesterday after a battle with pro-government tribesmen, police said.

U.S.-led coalition troops killed some 55 Taliban insurgents who ambushed them in southeastern Afghanistan, close to the Pakistan border, the U.S. military said yesterday.

There has been a sharp rise in violence along Afghanistan's eastern frontier in recent months. NATO generals say de-facto ceasefires between Pakistan's new government and militants in its border region free up insurgents to infiltrate into Afghanistan.

Taliban insurgents ambushed the coalition forces with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades in the Zerok district of Paktika province on Friday, a U.S. military statement said.

Among those killed were three Taliban leaders.

"Around 55 anti-Afghan forces were killed, 25 wounded and three detained as part of the combined response of coalition ground and air forces," the statement said. REUTERS

Weather hampers ferry rescue efforts

Many passengers feared trapped

found alive

» So far, more than 50 people have been found alive and at least 20 have been reported dead out of 864 passengers and crew on board.

Rescuers halted efforts yesterday night to find nearly 800 people missing from a capsized ferry in the Philippines as darkness fell and large swells prevented divers from drilling holes into the doomed vessel.

Many passengers were feared trapped inside the Princess of Stars after a handful of survivors said people were still onboard when the ship sank off the central island of Sibuyan in waves as big as houses during Saturday's typhoon.

But officials held little hope of finding people alive in air pockets on the ferry.

"We feel there is no life inside," said Lt.-Col. Edgard Arevalo, a Philippine navy spokesman.

The ship was resting upside down with the tip of its bow above water and its stern resting on the bottom of the sea, easily visible from shore.

The coast guard said divers would cut open the 23,824 ton vessel today after rescue efforts were halted for the night.

At least 20 new survivors and 15 bodies were found close to Masbate island, at least 70 kilometres away from where the ship sank.

"We are still working on the positive identification of the survivors as well as the fatalities," Capt. Gilbert Rueros said.

The United States was sending a military ship, the USNS Stockham, with helicopters on board, to help with rescue efforts. REUTERS

VIC KINTANAR/REUTERS

Betty Suson shows a photographer a picture of her daughter, Marites Suson, yesterday next to a notice board where pictures of missing passengers of the capsized ferry Princess of Stars are being posted in Cebu City, Philippines.

Floods kill 35 in China

Floods, landslides and hail in the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan have killed 35 people, state media said yesterday.

The storms have affected around 1.9 million people and caused losses of some 575 million yuan ($85 million US) in the province, the official Xinhua news agency said, though it did not specify a time frame.

In the eastern province of Anhui, torrential rain and floods over the weekend affected about 541,000 people, it added. REUTERS

»news In Brief

» **CAMP** International donors offered $120 million yesterday to help rebuild a Palestinian refugee camp badly damaged in fighting between Islamist militants and the Lebanese army last year. The Austrian foreign ministry, hosting a conference in Vienna, said the sum had been pledged for the Nahr al-Bared camp in northern Lebanon. It did not give a breakdown of the donations by country.

» **DRUNK** Police in Australia have charged a man for drunk driving in a motorized wheelchair after he was found to be six times over the legal alcohol limit, local media reported yesterday. REUTERS

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EU reforms **Setback to treaty**

THIERRY ROGE/REUTERS

London-based group Open Europe displays a banner outside the European Commission headquarters in Brussels. EU leaders must press ahead with ambitious policies on climate change and energy to counter surging oil prices and help overcome the political setback of Ireland's "No" to the EU reform treaty, the European Commission chief said.

Credit unions to merge

Years in the making and temporarily thwarted by the commercial paper crisis, the long-anticipated merger between Credit Union Central of British Columbia and Credit Union Central of Ontario is finally set to close July 1.

With $8 billion in assets, the combined entity will be known as Central 1. It will act as an umbrella organization for about 195 member credit unions in both provinces, providing them with a slew of payment, treasury, banking and trade services.

Legislative delays scuttled a previously planned merger.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

»news In Brief

» **OILSANDS** Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum Corp. said yesterday it is buying a 15 per cent stake in the multibillion-dollar Joslyn oil sands project in northern Alberta from Enerplus Resources Fund for $500 million. The move marks Occidental's re-entry into Canada, after selling its stake in Nexen Inc. in 2000.

» **ENERGY** Oil rose $1.38 to $136.74 yesterday as Nigerian supply disruptions and escalating tensions between Israel and Iran outweighed Saudi Arabia's pledge to raise output and keep markets supplied. Nigeria's senior oil workers union began a limited strike at Chevron yesterday. REUTERS

Banks want concessions

All options on table in BCE deal, sources say

background

» **BCE won a legal victory Friday after the Supreme Court of Canada backed the company in a battle against a group of bondholders, but negotiations continue between the banks, the buyers and BCE on the terms of the funding, sources said.**

Banks funding the planned $34.1 billion takeover of telecommunications company BCE Inc. have asked for more significant economic concessions and have weighed altering or scuttling the deal, sources familiar with the situation said yesterday.

The concessions include adding safeguards to the debt agreements, or seeking more lucrative terms on lending.

The banks — Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland Group and Toronto-Dominion Bank — also have actively considered walking away from the deal, the sources said.

"All options are on the table. Everything you would normally consider is being considered — sticking with the deal, changing the terms, or walking away. It's all still very much up for discussion," said one source who declined to be named.

Shares of BCE hit a high of $38.12 yesterday, but closed at $36.58 on the Toronto Stock Exchange as investors weighed the news of the Supreme Court decision against the risk of renegotiated terms. The stock trades below the $42.75 per share offer by the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan and its U.S.-based private-equity partners. REUTERS

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I bought a package and I'm so glad I did! Apple Cider 600 is fantastic! I have been taking them now for 6 weeks and I'm thrilled. I feel so much lighter and confident. I simply took 3 tablets a day, as recommended, drank more water, watched my snack intake somewhat, and the pounds just came off gradually. So I have finally thrown away all my baggy clothes and treated myself to a new wardrobe - It's so much better than snacks!"

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sports

Washington Nationals first baseman Nick Johnson, left, will undergo surgery today to determine the extent of his right wrist injury. Johnson missed the entire 2007 season after recovering from a broken leg. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dempster carries Cubs

YORK REPORT
MARTY YORK
marty.york@metronews.ca

The Cubs are all the rage in Chicago these days — actually, throughout baseball — as they rank as MLB's top team and threaten to end their 100-year drought as World Series champions.

They wouldn't be in this lofty position, however, were it not for a Canadian pitcher. Baseball buffs, in fact, are starting to tout **Ryan Dempster** — of Gibsons, B.C. — as the logical choice to start for the NL in the All-Star Game at Yankee Stadium in three weeks.

"Ryan's definitely got the numbers," Cubs manager **Lou Piniella** told me via telephone yesterday. "If I had to pick one player who's most responsible for what we've done in the first half this season, it might just be Ryan. He's quite a story."

Ryan Dempster

That's a considerably different tune than Piniella was whistling about Dempster last season, when the right-hander struggled lamentably in the role of closer for the Cubs. He finished 2007 with a record of 2-7 and an earned-run average of 4.73, which wasn't really much better than the 1-9 and 4.80 he posted as a Chicago reliever in 2006.

After the stench he created out of the Cubs' bullpen, however, Dempster was transformed this season into a starter by Piniella, and the results have been, well, deodourizing.

At 31, Dempster is 9-2, with a 2.63 ERA. He is perfect this year at Chicago's Wrigley Field (9-0), where the Cubs have won 14 consecutive games — their longest winning streak since 1936. The team is 12-3 in games Dempster has started. On Sunday night, he turned in a gem in a victory over the crosstown rival White Sox at a Wrigley Field sellout. Standing ovations were directed at him twice during the internationally televised game.

Translation: Dempster is a shoo-in as MLB's comeback player of the year.

"It's like I'm a different person," he said in an interview. "I'm giving all the credit to (Cubs clubhouse attendant) **Otis Hellman**. He's a great cook. It really gets you prepared. I'm trying now to see if I can get him cooking for us on the road."

In reality, Dempster's conditioning has been considerably more responsible for his revival than Hellman's culinary talents.

"You throw a lot more innings as a starter than you do as a closer," Dempster said, "so I realized before the season that I'd better get my body in better shape. I've been working out like crazy, like I never have before, and I know I'm stronger because of it. I'm a lot more confident. I'm thinking big, and I'm performing a lot better and I'm getting great results."

Just like the Cubs.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Canucks need to get off fence

TOUL BOX
SCOTT RINTOUL
scott.rintoul@metronews.ca

Following this weekend's NHL draft, the big question facing the Canucks has nothing to do with the five players Vancouver selected; every prospect is a good one until they prove otherwise.

The real query concerns general manager **Mike Gillis** and the lack of movement on the roster he now oversees. Gillis inferred he would be extremely aggressive in shaping this hockey club when he took the job, yet none of the weekend's significant trades involved the Canucks.

> *« We all know the NHL is an old boys' club that doesn't always take well to the introduction of new members, especially ones they've haggled with over money in the past. »*

If Gillis didn't like the deals, that's one thing. But he said the reason he didn't do any dealing is that he was unwilling to part with 2008 draft picks or roster players.

Gillis previously said the Canucks needed more young talent in the system; therefore, keeping the picks makes sense. However, he also said that this team "is not close" to competing for a Stanley Cup, so why would he be reticent to move current players?

Only Gillis knows the true rationale, and he still has all summer to shake up the lineup.

Of more concern to Canucks' fans are the rumours that other GMs don't want to deal with Gillis. That may simply be a conspiracy theory, but we all know the NHL is an old boys' club that doesn't always take well to the introduction of new members, especially ones they've haggled with over money in the past.

There's a long summer ahead, but it's something to keep an eye on.

» The Lions' starting quarterback job is now **Buck Pierce's** to lose after head coach and general manager **Wally Buono** officially announced his decision yesterday.

Buono admitted there wasn't much to choose between Pierce and **Jarious Jackson** based on their pre-season play, but said that Pierce was the more consistent pivot throughout training camp.

With Jackson waiting in the wings, Pierce can ill afford a letdown when the Leos open their season against the Stamps in Calgary on Thursday, but holding should be a bit easier now that **Rob Murphy** is back in the den.

The CFL's Most Outstanding Lineman in each of the past two years missed training camp while he and his wife awaited the birth of triplets in Florida, but a slender Murphy has practiced the past two days and says he's ready to rock on Thursday.

Murphy lost 25 pounds this offseason and says the leaner frame should allow him to be even more dominant than he was in each of the past two seasons. As for the triplets, Murphy will fly to Florida the second he receives word that his first three children are ready to make their way into this world.

» Want to weigh in? E-mail me at scott.rintoul@metronews.ca.

How to make a Scott Rintoul: Mix equal parts college athlete, sports fan and broadcaster. Shake vigorously.

»sports In Brief

Emery

» **NHL** The Ray Emery era in Ottawa is officially over. The Senators bought out the remaining two years of the maligned goaltender's contract yesterday for $2.25 million US, thus making him an unrestricted free agent. Emery, 25, went 12-13-4 with a 3.13 GAA and a .890 save percentage in 31 games this past season.

» **OLYMPICS** Kobe Bryant and LeBron James, the NBA's MVP and its leading scorer, headed the 12-man U.S. Olympic basketball team named yesterday for the Beijing Games. New Orleans Hornets point guard Chris Paul and Toronto Raptors forward Chris Bosh were also included in the squad.

» **MLB** The news was mostly good for Toronto Blue Jays right-hander Shaun Marcum yesterday. Marcum was examined by Dr. James Andrews yesterday and the famed orthopedist agreed with the club's diagnosis of strained ligaments in the right forearm and elbow that will not require surgery. Marcum was placed on the DL on Saturday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
INTERLEAGUE
Arizona 2 Boston 1
Kansas City 8 Colorado 4
L.A. Angels 3 Washington 2
Seattle 5 N.Y. Mets 2
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Milwaukee 4 Atlanta 1

TONIGHT'S GAMES
INTERLEAGUE
Arizona at Boston, 4:05
N.Y. Yankees at Pittsburgh, 4:05
St. Louis at Detroit, 4:05
San Francisco at Cleveland, 4:05
Cincinnati at Toronto, 4:07
Seattle at N.Y. Mets, 4:10
Tampa Bay at Florida, 4:10
L.A. Angels at Washington, 4:10
Texas at Houston, 5:05
Baltimore at Chicago Cubs, 5:05
Colorado at Kansas City, 5:10
Minnesota at San Diego, 7:05
Philadelphia at Oakland, 7:05
Chicago Sox at L.A. Dodgers, 7:10
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Milwaukee at Atlanta, 4:10

CFL

REGULAR SEASON
WEEK 1
THURSDAY'S GAMES
Montreal at Hamilton, 4
B.C. at Calgary, 7
FRIDAY'S GAME
Toronto at Winnipeg, 5
SATURDAY'S GAME
Edmonton at Saskatchewan, 4:30

SOCCER

UNITED SOCCER LEAGUE GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER WHITECAPS' MEN'S TEAM:
TOMORROW'S GAME
Montreal at VANCOUVER, 8

BASEBALL

NORTHWEST LEAGUE GAMES FEATURING THE VANCOUVER CANADIANS:
LAST NIGHT'S RESULT
VANCOUVER 4 Yakima 3
TONIGHT'S GAME
VANCOUVER at Yakima, 7:05

EURO 2008

SEMIFINALS
TOMORROW'S GAME
Germany vs. Turkey, 11:45
THURSDAY'S GAME
Russia vs. Spain, 11:45
CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL
SUNDAY
Semifinal winners, 11:45

Dancevic delivers Wimbledon upset

Canadian ousts No. 7 Nalbandian

Former finalist David Nalbandian became the highest men's seed to perish in the opening round at Wimbledon yesterday, beaten 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 by Canada's Frank Dancevic.

The seventh-seeded Argentine, runner-up in 2002, looked completely out of sorts, bamboozled by winners flying off Dancevic's racket.

The 95th-ranked Dancevic, a native of Niagara Falls, Ont., put Nalbandian out of misery with a booming ace, his 16th of the match.

"I expected better than this for sure," said Nalbandian, who hinted he was injured, but refused to elaborate.

Dancevic will next face American Bobby Reynolds as he bids to reach the third round of a grand slam for the first time.

ALESSIA PIERDOMENICO/REUTERS

Canada's Frank Dancevic reacts after his win over Argentina's David Nalbandian yesterday at Wimbledon.

In yesterday's other action, world No. 1 Roger Federer began his pursuit of a modern-era record sixth successive Wimbledon title by dismantling his old doubles partner Dominik Hrbaty 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Joining Federer in round two are Novak Djokovic, Lleyton Hewitt, Marat Safin, Serena Williams, Ana Ivanovic, Amelie Mauresmo and Svetlana Kuznetsova. REUTERS

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Gas pump blues

Here's how to lower gas costs

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

Five to twenty minutes of fuel is consumed each time the drive-thru is used — this is an unnecessary waste of fuel.

This week one of our Smart Cookies is handing back her leased vehicle and opting for public transit. With gas prices soaring, we can't help but think it's a smart decision. However, those of us who rely on cars to get around (this includes two Smart Cookies), have to be a bit more creative and efficient to not pay a small fortune for our fuel.

Below are a few of Smart Cookies top tips on saving at the pump.

» Watch your idle time. Letting your engine idle for more than 30 seconds will burn more gas than restarting the engine, so turn the engine off if you expect a long wait.

» Resist the convenience of the drive-thru. We know it's tough to avoid when you've just hopped out of bed and are running for a coffee. But for those who regularly use a drive-thru, the best choice is to park the car and go in. Five to 20 minutes of fuel is consumed each time the drive-thru is used and for those who use one often, this is an unnecessary waste of fuel.

» Map out your errands. Do multiple errands on the same morning or afternoon and plan out your trip ahead of time. Consolidate drives to locations that are close to each other. If possible, park your car in one spot and walk when you get there.

» Take a break from driving. Carpool, take public transit, or telecommute one day per week instead of driving to work.

» Check the web for deals. Several gasoline price watching websites let you find the best deals in your area. *Gasbuddy.com* is one of our favourites.

» Keep your tires properly inflated and aligned. Under-inflated tires cause fuel consumption to increase by six per cent.

» Change your oil. Clean oil reduces wear caused by friction between moving parts and removes harmful substances from the engine.

» Check and replace air filters regularly. Your car's air filter keeps impurities in the air from damaging internal engine components. Clogged filters can cause up to a 10 per cent increase in fuel consumption.

» Park in the first spot you find. If you wander all over the parking lot looking for that really close parking space, you'll use more gas and waste more time. Smart Cookies say don't be afraid to walk a ways if it comes to that — you'll be saving money and burning calories all at once!

We would like to dedicate this column to the loving memory of Duane — 2001 Pontiac Grand AM. Thanks for the good times.

If you have questions for the Smart Cookies, email us at *smartcookies@metronews.ca*.

SMART COOKIES
www.smartcookies.com

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit *smartcookies.com* for more tips.

Maintain records in case of an audit

Q I have been selected for an audit. Why would they choose me and to what extent am I obligated? **-GUS, ONTARIO**

A Most Canadian taxpayers would happily go through life without experiencing an audit from the CRA. Unfortunately, this reality can become a nightmare.

Individuals should check the letter and ensure it is not a request for additional information. A request can be resolved by simply complying — end of story. Businesses should clarify and confirm the purpose of the audit, such as payroll, GST, corporate taxes, etc. Advise your accountant immediately.

Maintaining proper records and files can reduce the time spent by the CRA at your office and ultimately result in a squeaky clean audit.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, can be reached at: 416-590-1728 Ext.304. E-mail Money Matters: choochonghcga@yahoo.ca.

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keep an Ace up your sleeve.

health

Standing on a vibrating platform may sound like an odd way to pass the time, but new research suggests it may do the muscles and bones some good, particularly in older or sedentary adults. REUTERS

The peanut is back

A return to the legume's former nutritional glory

Patti McIntosh knew she was dealing with an unlikely hero when she started researching her new children's book about global malnutrition.

The story's star is the peanut — one of the Western world's most controversial foods because of its potentially fatal allergens.

In Ollie's Field Journal: A 9/10ths Happy Story From Africa, it takes the form of peanut paste prescription, a ready-to-use peanut butter-like concoction that restores the health of starving children in Niger and other African countries, thanks to its calories, protein and vitamins.

"I definitely knew we were dealing with fear of peanuts in the West," the Edmonton author said in a phone interview. Even her eight-year-old nephew cocked an eyebrow.

"But we knew the success rate of the peanut paste prescription ... so from our perspective it wasn't a concern."

Still, the narrator Ollie had to address it. "Don't worry, there are not as many allergies (in Africa)," she tells her readers.

These days, a good news story involving peanuts is as hard to find as PB&J in a school lunchroom. That's because peanuts and peanut products wreak terror among the estimated 1.5 per cent of Canadians who are severely allergic, especially children and their parents.

But might the lowly legume be due for a makeover, at least among allergy-free peanut lovers?

McIntosh's book doesn't shy away from citing its merits as a therapeutic food. The peanut paste, commonly known as "Plumpy'nut," was created in France in 1999 and has been used by Médecins Sans Frontières in Niger and other countries, boosting the health of nine-tenths of malnourished children who consume it four times a day.

Peanuts, an often controversial nut these days due to the increase in food allergies, are making a comeback. A recent survey found nine out of 10 respondents considered peanuts and peanut butter a healthy source of protein.

According to the Peanut Bureau of Canada, a marketing arm of the American Peanut Council, consumption of peanuts has increased here over the past three years despite the bad rep. A 2008 survey of 1,500 Canadians conducted for the bureau by Leger Marketing found nine out of 10 respondents considered peanuts and peanut butter healthy sources of protein and nutrients, and 89 per cent kept it in their homes.

Even representatives from Anaphylaxis Canada say it's time to stop demonizing the maligned groundnut and instead focus on public education and protection of those with allergies.

Excessive anxiety does more harm than good to allergic kids, their friends and other parents, says executive director Laurie Harada, who calls for a balanced approach. Often allergic children dislike being singled out and recently there have been incidents of bullies taunting certain kids by exposing them to the allergens.

Peanut-bashing can also lead to "allergy fatigue," which causes people to stop paying attention to the real risks, adds Harada, whose 14-year-old son is severely allergic to peanuts, tree nuts and shellfish.

"You don't want a food vilified, whether it's peanut butter or milk."

The controversial legume has pretty much been peanut non grata for the past decade or so as a result of an increase in food allergies and the fact that peanuts can trigger anaphylaxis, the most dangerous of allergic reactions, which can cause difficulty breathing, loss of consciousness and death.

Banned from daycares, classrooms and summer camps, the fear has sparked a barrage of "peanut-free" marketing. Over-anxious parents demand hospital testing before letting their tots have their first taste — even if they have no family history or symptoms of any allergies.

It wasn't always this way. Peanuts and crackerjack are the glorified staples of baseball fans. Kiddie entertainer Fred Penner gave peanut butter a shout-out in his hit song "Sandwiches."

In Truman Capote's 1950s novella Breakfast at Tiffany's, heroine Holly Golightly babbles about how her brother grew to 6-foot-2 thanks to his peanut butter binges.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

facts/figures in a nutshell

» Roughly 1.5 per cent of Canadians are allergic to peanuts. A recent McGill University study of Montreal-area schoolchildren found no meaningful increase in the allergy over the five years ending in 2007.

» Peanuts account for the majority of severe food-related allergic reactions. The other major causes are tree nuts (including almonds, cashews and walnuts) and shellfish.

» Allergies to peanuts, tree nuts and shellfish tend to be lifelong.

» There is no conclusive evidence about whether ingesting peanut products during pregnancy or the age a child first eats them has a role in developing an allergy.

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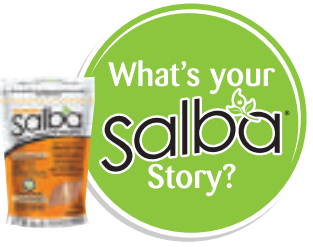

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METRO NEWS SERVICES

McDonald's Big Mac.

burger facts

Nutritional facts on your favourite fast food burger. And remember, this doesn't include condiments!

» Burger King: Original Whopper sandwich, 283g
Calories: 650
Fat: 36 g
Trans Fat: 0.5 g

» McDonald's: Big Mac sandwich, 209g
Calories: 540
Fat: 29 g
Trans Fat: 0.5 g

» Wendy's: 1/4 lb. Single sandwich, 226g
Calories: 430
Fat: 20 g
Trans Fat: 1 g

» Harvey's: Original hamburger, 146g
Calories: 380
Fat: 26 g
Trans Fat: 0.4 g

METRO NEWS SERVICE

Garage sale etiquette tips

HINESIGHT
ANNE HINES

Summer. Time to slap on the Coppertone, throw on a cover-up, floppy hat, dark glasses, and get out and enjoy the sun. I am a great believer in sunscreen. I use SPF 597. By September, I often end up whiter than I started out.

This is also the season to participate in that great Canadian ritual, the street garage sale. In my neighbourhood, we call it the annual Trading of the Trash. Once a year, for three hours on a Saturday morning, we attempt to sell our friends and neighbours all the things we can't wait to get rid of ourselves.

Having had years of garage sale experience, I am happy to provide these handy tips to those trying it for the first time.

If the sale is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., the serious buyers will arrive at your place promptly at 6:45 a.m.

It is poor etiquette to view any item of your neighbour's and exclaim, "I can't believe you actually bought that!" particularly when you yourself are trying to hock the coconut bra you brought back from your last vacation.

Seek out garage sales being thrown by gay couples. The stuff they're throwing out will be nicer than the stuff you're keeping.

Impress on your children that the point of a street sale is to get rid of more stuff than they buy from other people. One year my daughter, Becky, came home dragging a giant pink semi-petrified stuffed horse that she couldn't believe someone sold to her for $1. I am still not speaking to those neighbours.

A common mistake among newbie garage-salers is assuming that the designer feathered lamp you paid $200 for in a store ought to fetch more than $1.50 at a garage sale. To find the proper price, follow these simple steps.

1.) Imagine that the item being priced was a birthday gift from an ex-boyfriend/girlfriend/ employer/spouse.

2.) Imagine you noticed a sticker on the bottom that said, "Free with purchase of Beefyman Beer."

3.) Imagine the item also came with a card reading, "To Sue, with all my love."

4.) Your name is not Sue.

Subtract 25¢ (if you still can) and you have the proper garage sale price.

Finally, feel free to buy for your self anything and everything that catches your eye. You'll have something to sell next year.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

If a garage sale is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m., serious buyers will arrive at 6:45 a.m., warns our columnist Anne Hines, a garage sale veteran.

report

Don't pump up the volume

RESEARCH Next time you crank up the volume, beware: an Australian government report said young people risk developing permanent hearing problems if they go to noisy bars and listen to loud music through headphones. The report found two out of three Australians suffered some degree of hearing damage. REUTERS

»news In Brief

» **DRUGS** A highly effective leukemia pill may reduce complications and boost the effectiveness of a treatment for the most common type of stroke, an international team of researchers said on Sunday.

» **ALLERGIES** German researchers say they have found some of the strongest evidence yet linking traffic pollution to childhood allergies.

» **RESEARCH** Colon cancer patients with a family history of the disease may live longer once treated than those without the family link, researchers said recently.

REUTERS

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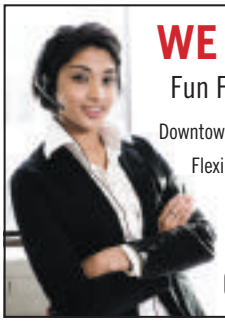

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California-based Botox maker Allergan will seek approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to market bimatoprost, used to treat glaucoma, as a treatment to stimulate eyelash growth.

Drug stimulates eyelash growth

Glaucoma treatment has beauty side effect

Goodbye mascara.

One day soon you could have longer, thicker, darker eyelashes thanks to a drug called bimatoprost, which is now used to treat glaucoma and happens to have a happy side effect — extreme lash growth.

Only one problem. The drug, at least as it's used to treat glaucoma, has another possible cosmetic effect — raccoon eyes, or darkening of the skin around the eyes.

Hello concealer.

Allergan, the California-based maker of Botox, announced it will seek approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to market bimatoprost — which it's been selling in eyedrop form to glaucoma sufferers under the label Lumigan for years — as a treatment to stimulate eyelash growth.

The lash-lengthening drug could be available as early as 2009 in the U.S., though Allergan has not said it intends to seek approval in Canada.

The company tested bimatroprost's cosmetic benefits in a 2007 trial that included participants in San Diego and Vancouver, though it won't discuss the results, beyond a news release that was issued earlier this month.

"We are pleased with the results of our clinical program and believe this innovative program, if approved, could meet a significant and unmet demand in the medical aesthetic marketplace," Scott Whitcup, Allergan's executive vice-president of research and development, said in the release.

> *« We are pleased with the results of our clinical program and believe this innovative program, if approved, could meet a significant and unmet demand in the medical aesthetic marketplace »*
>
> *Scott Whitcup, Allergan's executive vice-president of research and development*

The company won't say how the product is applied, whether side effects were reported, what it will cost or how dramatic the results of the trial were.

"For proprietary reasons, until published, we are not providing any more detail around the clinical program," Heather Katt, Allergan's manager of corporate communications, wrote in an email last week. In other words, the company doesn't want to give away trade secrets to potential competitors.

In addition to being an effective glaucoma drug, Lumigan has dramatic cosmetic effects, confirms a local doctor who specializes in glaucoma and has prescribed it to treat the eye disease.

"It certainly causes eyelashes to grow," says Dr. Graham Trope, a professor of ophthalmology at the University of Toronto in Toronto, Ont., and a specialist in the treatment of glaucoma. "It can be quite profound. It doesn't occur in everybody, but does occur in many."

A Phoenix-based optometrist who specializes in geriatric glaucoma and prescribes the drug to aging patients says it even has the power to regrow lashes that fell out long ago.

"It doesn't matter how old, or whether it's a man or a woman," says Dr. Shannon Steinhauser, describing the bimatoprost-boosted lashes as "longer, thicker and darker."

Female patients particularly like the lashes, she says, but they don't like the raccoon-eyes. "It's a tired look," she says.

When given a choice to switch drugs, though, her patients usually opt to continue taking Lumigan — and applying under-eye concealer to hide the darkened skin — because it's the most effective and easy-to-take option for glaucoma.

Lumigan stops progression of the disease by reducing pressure in the eye.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

» Glaucoma is a disease which can increase pressure in the eye, damaging the optic nerve and progressing to blindness if not properly treated.

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The lifestyle drug trend

alive

From the editors of alive magazine; alive.metro@alive.com

Numerous "lifestyle" drugs exist on the market today. In response to this, a New York-based artist developed a fictional drug as part of an art gallery installation and social experiment.

You can get prescriptions to treat generalized or social anxiety disorders (GAD or SAD), erectile dysfunction (ED), avoidant personality disorder (APD), restless leg syndrome (RLS), caffeine-induced sleep disorder (CISD), and male-pattern hair loss (MPHL).

Annoying they may be, but because none of these disorders is generally considered life-threatening, the drugs developed to treat them are known as lifestyle drugs.

The newest among these is Havidol, developed to treat dysphoric social attention consumption deficit anxiety disorder (DSACDAD). Sufferers of DSACDAD exhibit symptoms such as "worrying about life; feeling tense, restless, or fatigued; being concerned about their weight; noticing signs of aging; feeling stress at work or home; or finding activities they used to enjoy, like shopping, challenging."

AVAFYNETYME

» Havidol is the brand name of the drug avafynetyme (say it aloud), and it "helps sufferers see that no matter how much they have, more is always possible."

The drug, of course, isn't real and neither is the disorder. Both are the creation of New York-based artist Justine Cooper, who posted a website (havidol.com) to market the fictional drug as part of an art gallery installation in early 2007. Just a few months after posting, the website had received 250,000 hits, many of them from links posted on actual websites for people with anxiety disorders.

Cooper's website holds up a subtly mocking but realistic mirror to websites for lifestyle drugs such as Ambien CR, Viagra, or Requip — complete with FAQs, a self-assessment quiz, prescribing information for physicians, clinical trial results, testimonials, and a list, in small print, of possible side-effects (including "extraordinary thinking, inter-species communication ... terminal smile, and, very rarely, a need to change physicians").

The website is meant to be a "subtle parody" that, says Cooper, "draws you in, makes you want this thing, and then makes you wonder why you want it."

alive is Canada's award-winning natural health and wellness magazine. Visit alive.com for more.

Food affects mood

» Eating unhealthy foods can adversely affect our emotional health. People who consume excessive amounts of caffeine, for example, often have many of the same physiological and psychological symptoms as people suffering from anxiety.

ALIVE MAGAZINE

research

Prostate finding could lead to test

MEDICAL Researchers believe they have found a compound produced by aggressive prostate tumours and said recently they hope they can use it to design a urine test to detect the most dangerous tumours. Prostate cancer is found in 780,000 men every year globally and kills 250,000. REUTERS

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entertainment

Hip-hop producer Timbaland, left, tied the knot with publicist and mother of his child Monique Idlett in Aruba on Sunday. E! NEWS ONLINE

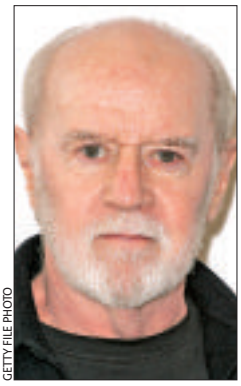
Edgy comic George Carlin remembered

Comedian George Carlin, who had a history of heart and drug-dependency problems, died at Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica Sunday after being admitted earlier in the afternoon for chest pains, spokesman Jeff Abraham told Reuters.

Known for his edgy, provocative material developed over 50 years, the bald, bearded Carlin achieved status as an anti-Establishment icon in the 1970s with stand-up bits full of drug references and a routine called Seven Words You Can Never Say On Television. A regulatory battle over a radio broadcast of the routine ultimately reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the 1978 case, Federal Communications Commission vs. Pacifica Foundation, the top U.S. court ruled that the words cited in Carlin's routine were indecent, and that the government's broadcast regulator could ban them from being aired at times when children might be listening.

The Grammy-winning Carlin remained an active presence on the comedy circuit. Carlin was scheduled to receive the John F. Kennedy Center's prestigious Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in November and his publicist said Carlin performed in Las Vegas this month.



GETTY FILE PHOTO

George Carlin

His comedic sensibility revolved around a central theme: humanity is a cursed, doomed species.

"I don't have any beliefs or allegiances. I don't believe in this country, I don't believe in religion, or a god, and I don't believe in all these man-made institutional ideas," he told Reuters in a 2001 interview. REUTERS

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Small town, big dream

Geography plays role for some Idol hopefuls

By SANDY CAETANO
Metro Vancouver

Getting your foot in the door in the music industry is aa difficult task for anyone, no matter where you're from — small town or big city.

But when that opportunity comes knocking on your door — like Canadian Idol — having moral support to help push you forward gives you the strength to go for it. For 26-year-old bartender Paul Clifford of Port Moody, B.C., trying to grab that opportunity isn't as easy as it sounds.

"You really have to have put the time and effort into each performance and are always hoping that someone out there is listening," says Clifford, one of this year's Top 24 contestants. "And wanting to give an independent artist like myself an opportunity that perhaps would be a little easier to find if you where playing in the hub of a city rich with musical culture."

Coming from a smaller city can be an advantage because you have your friends, family and your hometown behind you. That installs a fire in Clifford's heart knowing that the local community is behind him.

"We're all in this together. I am hoping that the word is spreading and that I have this amazing chance to get my name out there and create some opportunities for myself and my music career," he says.

Unlike anyone else in the Top 24, Gary Morissette auditioned online. But like his fellow competitor Clifford, this Fruitvale, B.C., musician and construction worker felt secluded from a good music scene.

CTV MEDIA PHOTO

Paul Clifford, above, of Port Moody, B.C., and Gary Morissette, right, of Fruitvale, B.C., are among Canadian Idol's Top 24.

"It made me think that I had to prove myself with every performance," says 21-year-old Morissette. "It gave me a strong will because I had to overcome a place where many people thought it was an unrealistic career choice."

Morissette says he plans on using the fact that he's from a small place like Fruitvale to his advantage because it helped shape who he is today.

"It made me a very simple minded person on the outside, but searching for something much deeper inside," he says. "In an early original song called Guitar Boy I sang, 'just a guitar boy growing up in the woods, playing a song for whomever he could.'"

Indiana Jones back on top overseas

Propelled by a powerhouse opening in Japan, Indiana Jones And The Kingdom of The Crystal Skull reclaimed the No. 1 spot at the foreign box office after an absence of two weekends.

The adventure earned $25 million US from 62 markets, lifting its total foreign take to $392 million. Japan contributed a huge $13.1 million

The Incredible Hulk was second overall with $23.4 million from 50 territories — 12 of them new — raising its international total to $63.3 million.

Sex And The City finished a close No. 3 with $21.4 million from 52 territories. Its foreign total stands at $170 million.

Kung Fu Panda finished at No. 4 with $19 million from 18 territories for a foreign total of $66.5 million. The cartoon opened at No. 1 in Mexico with $5.9 million.

Last weekend's foreign champion, The Happening, slid to No. 5 with $14.2 million from 64 markets for an early overseas total of $57 million. REUTERS

Pop star Janet Jackson, left, might feel "allergic to marriage," but she is ready to have a baby, says longtime boyfriend Jermaine Dupri.

SOURCE: PEOPLE.COM

ABOVE: It's champagne time for Urban Rush host Fiona Forbes, left, and Open Sundaes owner Mashiah Vaughn at Italian Kitchen.

LEFT: Italian Kitchen's bella fellas are looking to cast a little magic in Kits with their second location. From left: managing partner Owen Louis, president Emad Yacoub and exec sous chef Erik Heck.

RIGHT: Alison Lawton's work with UNICEF and AIDS/HIV has gained worldwide attention from former world leaders and celebrities.

LEFT: Unite with Art UNICEF gala executive director Julie Lee celebrates with featured artists James Nizam, left, Adam Dodd and Eben Bender.

ABOVE: Artist Gabryel Harrison, right, and partner Swan are thrilled as her art piece, which features gold leaf and a braille poem, is sold for $25,000 at the UNICEF gala.

Living large

SOCIAL EYES

CATHERINE 'CAT' BARR

info@catherinebarr.com

She looks nothing like Gandhi, is nowhere near as old as Buddha, and hangs around with the likes of Bill Gates and Bill Clinton. But no matter where she draws her inspiration, there's no doubt that Alison Lawton is living life large in every sense of the word. Describing herself as a "social entrepreneur" and "venture philanthropist", this lady of great means has shown the world nothing but kindness. She is the creator of Mindset Media — a socially conscious media company that received great praise recently for producing the film Uganda Rising. Today, she is the chair of the Unite For Children Unite Against Aids Campaign for UNICEF Canada. She hosted the Unite With Art gala at the Rocky Mountaineer Station this past Saturday in support of children around the world.

Also this week, at the Sutton Place hotel, the star-studded La Dolce Vita gala and auction dinner took place in support of the Whistler Film Festival Society. And the Chianti was flowing in Kits as the Glowbal Group opened the doors on Trattoria Italian Kitchen at 4th and Burrard — a kissing cousin to its successful original Italian Kitchen location at Burrard and Alberni.

Ciao Bella!

Cat Calls? Please visit *www.catherinebarr.com* to submit your event or e-mail info@catherinebarr.com. She can also be heard on CFUN 1410 AM radio Fridays at 4 p.m.

ABOVE: Supporting UNICEF are Rachel Mantel, Jason Soprovich and wife Monica.

ABOVE: Actors Richard Deklerk, left, and Sonja Bennett join director and festival past president Carl Bessai as the Whistler Film Fest gala begins.

RIGHT: Whistler Film Festival co-founder Kasi Lubin, left, guest Erin Marof and sponsor Tegan Ross-Kelly at the Whistler Film Fest gala.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF
INDEPENDENCE DAY AND THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
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Actress Elizabeth Perkins, left, has blasted the myth the cast of the comedy Weeds smoke real marijuana on-set, insisting producers supply them with a harmless "stunt herb." IMDB.COM

Lawsuits, debts and sales

TV is often more interesting behind the scenes

INTELLEVISION

RICK McGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT'S DUE: Three writers and producers are taking Corey Haim and Corey Feldman — aka "The Two Coreys" — to court, claiming that they deserve credit for the reality show of the same name that brings the '80s has-beens back together, according to a TMZ.com story.

The trio are asking for $1 million US in compensation.

The lesson of the day is that Hollywood is the only place where anyone would think of demanding credit for such a thing.

It's like some clapped-out swinger fighting for royalties on herpes.

BAD NEWS FOR SECOND BANANAS: Last month, we learned that Ed McMahon was about to lose his Beverly Hills home, as unpaid mortgage loans meant almost immediate foreclosure, news that was somehow played as a high-water mark in the U.S. sub-prime mortgage crisis.

This week, TMZ.com is carrying a story that, thanks to debts run up by his wife Pamela, he owes some $750,000 on his American Express card.

Did you ever get the feeling that everything started going to hell the morning after Johnny Carson went off the air?

NOT JUST SURVIVING: Former paratrooper and "manny" Mark Burnett might have a few bucks he can loan McMahon, with news that the reality TV impresario is rumoured to be selling his production company to IMG, the talent agency and production company who brought you such golden titles as American Gladiators and Battle Of The Network Stars.

According to a story by the usually-reliable Nikki Finke of L.A. Weekly, Burnett is discussing a figure of around $500 million for his stable of reality shows, half of it up front, the rest to be "earned out" — paid when IMG sees the returns on its investment.

« Did you ever get the feeling that everything started going to hell the morning after Johnny Carson went off the air? »

IMG's head of global operations was recently witnessed defending Burnett at a Hollywood entertainment conference this week, and went on to say that Burnett was a "visionary genius" who's "reimagining television and its models."

Considering how steeply almost all of Burnett's "visionary" shows lose viewership after their first couple of seasons, IMG must have inside information that O.J. Simpson will be doing the next Celebrity Apprentice chained to Judge Lance Ito, Marcia Clark and Mark Fuhrman, in a Plexiglas sphere suspended over a huge vat of boiling Cheez Whiz.

GEORGE CARLIN R.I.P.: The comedian, who passed away this weekend, was one of the major inspirations of my young life — proof of how much mileage you could get just by telling jokes that made your parents upset. I'd write a longer tribute, but I'm pretty sure I already did that a couple of years ago, when I managed to get a certain Anglo-Saxon four-letter expletive printed over a dozen times in this column, without a single complaint. That one was for you, George.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 6/24/08	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Just-Gags	Rick Mercer	22 Minutes	Quest for the West		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 CH	E! News	The Insider	X-Weighted "Jocelyn" (CC)		Kimora: Fab	Kardashians	Living Lohan	D. Richards	News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Law & Order: SVU		Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	eTalk (CC)	Hollywood	Canadian Idol Singers perform. (CC)			Robson Arms	Without a Trace (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	TBA	George Lopez	Coach (CC)	Growing Pains	Jeeves and Wooster		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Wipeout (Series Premiere) (N)		Shark "LAPD Blue" (CC)		In Plain Sight (N) (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	Friends (CC)	Celebrity Family Feud (CC)		America's Got Talent (N) (CC)				News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Japanese Game Show		Hell's Kitchen (N) (CC)		Two/Half Men	Rule	Reviews
	-	-	14 CW	'70s Show	'70s Show	Beauty and the Geek (CC)		Reaper "Ashes to Ashes"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	NCIS "Sharif Returns" (CC)		48 Hours Mystery (CC)		Without a Trace (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Celebrity Family Feud (CC)		America's Got Talent (N) (CC)				News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Maxed Out	Style by Jury	Kim	Style by Jury	How to Look Good Naked		Maxed Out
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Wipeout (Series Premiere) (N)		Japanese Game Show		Primetime: The Outsiders		News (N)
	-	-	26 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Scrubs (CC)	Raw Deal ★★ (1986, Action) Arnold Schwarzenegger.				Will & Grace	Scrubs (CC)	Seinfeld
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	About-Money	Nova (CC) (DVS)		Frontline/World (N)		P.O.V. (Season Premiere) (N) (CC)		
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Hell's Kitchen (CC)		Hell's Kitchen (N) (CC)		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	48 PBS	Frontline/World (N)		Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Nova (CC) (DVS)	
	296	654	54 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Cheers (CC)	South Park	Comics Un.	Half & Half	Entertainment	The Insider	Paid Program
	298	653	55 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Beauty and the Geek (CC)		Reaper "Ashes to Ashes"		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66 WGN	MLB Baseball: Orioles at Cubs		WGN News	Beauty and the Geek (CC)		Beauty and the Geek (CC)		Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67 WPX	CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	Frasier (CC)	George Lopez	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) Seinfeld	Wipeout (Series Premiere) (N)		Late Late
news	502	390	29 NW	Road Stories: Saskaboom (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Where I Belong (CC)		National
	500	500	69 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Euro Preview	World Sport	Boxing (Taped)				Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			In This Corner	Euro Today	E:60 (N) (CC)		Motoring 2008	SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Adventures	Strand-Peters	Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Survivorman (CC)		Odyssey
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Tonight		The Spin With Steve Kouleas.		Score Update		Score Update		Score Update
	417	406	55 SC	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Street Tuner	Low Life	Super Bikes!
	416	409	144 GLF	(6:00) Fútbol de España		Gol TV News		Hallo Bundesliga		Gol TV News		Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hunt	Falcon Beach "The Video"		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	George	Scooby Doo	Scooby-Doo	6teen (CC)	Total Drama	Futurama	Blade ★★ (1998) Wesley Snipes. (CC)		
	557	541	51 FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Dragon	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Crazy Quilt	Treetown	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	3 KNO	Gardens	Recreat. Eden	Himalaya With Michael Palin		The Man Who Shot Horses		Sombrio		Leading Edge
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Roseanne	CMT30	Totally	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith	Home Imp.	Roseanne	Ed (CC)
	570	580	24 MM	PunchMuch		Gone Wild	Gone Wild	So You Think You Can Dance Top 18 finalists perform. (CC)				Dance
	600	564	29 H&G	Green Force	Outside	Colin & Justin's Home		Guys	Design Inc.	Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Green Force
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami "Payback" (CC)		CSI: Miami "The Score"		The First 48 (CC)		The First 48 (CC)		CSI: Miami
	628	584	32 SPKE	CSI: Miami "Felony Flight"		CSI: NY "Manhattan Manhunt"		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Star Trek: Voyager "Unity"		Deep Space 9
	521	560	34 TLC	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		Dateline: Real Life Mysteries		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		Detectives
	616	522	39 SHO	ReGenesis "Fishy" (CC)		Blue Murder (CC)		Trailer Park	Kenny-Spenny	CSI: NY "Obsession" (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Rufus Wainwright: Live (CC)		Law & Order "Hot Pursuit"		Without a Trace "Bait" (CC)		Rufus Wainwright: Live (CC)		Tornado
	601	562	41 SLC	Plastic-Perfect	Rocker Moms	Nearly Dead	Matchmaker	Salon Diaries (CC)		Plastic-Perfect	Rocker Moms	Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Deadliest Catch (N)		Daily Planet (CC)		Smash Lab (CC)		Deadliest Catch		How It's Made
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Lt. Jane Doe" (CC)		Digging for the Truth (CC)		Finding the Fallen (CC)		NCIS "Lt. Jane Doe" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45 SPC	Battlestar Galactica (CC)		Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Star Trek: Enterprise (CC)		Star Trek Gen.
	294	650	47 TBS	The Office	The Office	My Boys	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Eight Legged Freaks ★★ (2002) (PA) (CC)		
	619	525	48 TROP	News Show	News Show	ET Canada	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)	Family Guy
	603	561	62 FN	Top Chef (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		HEAT	HEAT	Top Chef
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	MADtv Bill O'Reilly. (CC)		Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	Judgment Day: Guilty Go Free		Hard Times at Douglass High: A		No Child Left Behind		Days of Glory ★★★ (2006) Jamel Debbouze.		
	581	566	101 MTV	Shot at Love-Tila Tequila		MTV Live (CC)		Shot at Love-Tila Tequila		Shot at Love-Tila Tequila		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Jozi-H "Ex's" (DVS)		Mysterious Ways "Muti"		Quantum Leap		Eyes Down	On the Buses	Recreat. Eden
	-	-	106 MUL	The Land	Daughters	Il Caffe		In Germany	Euromaxx	Schauplatz	Euro. Journal	Patrol World

critics' corner

Wipeout

Ever tried to cross a body of water on a bridge made of enormous red balls? Walked a narrow ledge alongside a wall where boxing gloves pop out at random intervals to knock you off? Those are some of the challenges awaiting contestants in this new series, a sort of "Double Dare" meets "Fear Factor" meets boot camp. Contestants brave a series of wacky obstacle courses with a $50,000 prize for the most successful. 8 PM on GTV

Robson Arms

What is it with television and the fixation on hunky doctors? In the new episode "Baby? What Baby?" Bobbi (Gabrielle Miller) meets Dr. Right (guest star Shaun Majumder). He's cute, charming and has money to burn. Perfect, right? Well, he would be if he liked kids — of which Bobbi happens to have one. Can the good doctor be turned into father material in time for the wedding in Bobbi's imagination? 9:30 PM on CTV

» going out

7 p.m. B-Side artists Aeroplan Trio, Sgt. Benson and Supna in concert as part of the Vancouver Jazz Festival. At the Alibi Room, 157 Alexander St. Tix: by donation. Info: alibi.ca.

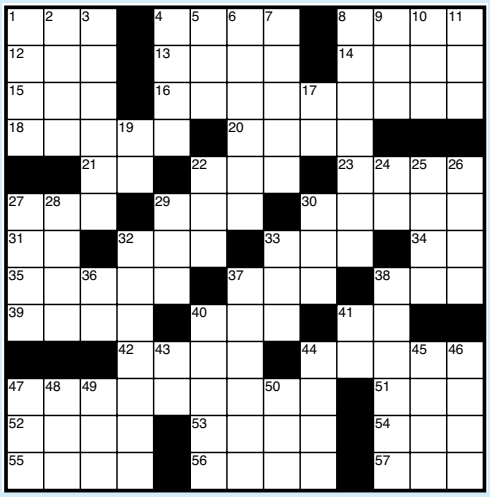
8 p.m. Paul Pigat performs live as part of Vancouver Jazz Festival. At Oasis Ultra Lounge, 1240 Thurlow St. Tix: $5. Info: oasisvancouver.com.

9 p.m. Stacked Tuesdays, spinning the lastest underground, electro and indie cuts. At Celebrities Night Club, 1022 Davie St. Tix: $5. Info: celebrities-nightclub.com.

9 p.m. Salsa Tuesdays, with DJ Cachete. At Atlantis Nightclub, 1320 Richards St. Info: atlantis-club.net.

more online

» For DVD reviews of Persepolis, Futurama: The Beast With A Billion Backs, Early Edition: The First Season and Dogfights: The Complete Season Two, and more, go to *metronews.ca*.



down

1 Coconut source
2 Out on the briny
3 Parched feeling
4 Hunks' assets
5 Teahouse attire
6 Snacks
7 Sherpa's home
8 Less certain
9 Fish roe
10 PC key
11 Slalom run
17 Ouch!
19 Brief query
22 Rickey ingredient
24 Dixie st.
25 Breathe
26 Styptic
27 Cracker brand
28 Sheltered
29 Work in the garden
30 Machine tooth
32 Probate concerns
33 Not lean
36 Since
37 Forward letters
38 Ride fast
40 Plays a round
41 Moon of Jupiter
43 Scale note
44 Big celebration
45 French Legion headgear
46 Cloy
47 Delivery truck
48 Ivy Leaguer
49 San Francisco hill
50 Chinese "way"

across

1 Overly glib
4 Rhine city
8 Went by bike
12 Embers, finally
13 Woodwind
14 Currier and —
15 Aloha token
16 Kitchen sink devices
18 Adult fillies
20 Peddle
21 Library warning
22 Firm up
23 Cuba, to Castro
27 Tell on
29 Towel word
30 DeMille of epics
31 Peoria's st.
32 Immeasurable time
33 Not opposed
34 Deja —
35 Pester playfully
37 Tattered cloth
38 Sparkler
39 Relish
40 Obtain
41 Midwest st.
42 Bohr's study
44 Mom and Pop
47 Open the window
51 Grassland
52 — vera
53 Royal decree
54 Cast a vote
55 Robin beaks
56 Wild plum
57 Apple goody

previous answer

P	A	W	■	G	O	A	D	■	E	P	E	E
I	C	E	■	A	X	L	E	■	S	A	R	A
L	O	R	D	S	■	P	U	M	P	■	E	R
O	R	E	O	■	V	I	C	U	N	A	■	■
T	N	■	D	R	O	N	E	D	■	W	O	O
■	■	A	G	I	L	E	■	■	F	A	L	L
U	P	B	E	A	T	■	L	U	R	K	E	D
T	O	Y	S	■	■	A	E	R	I	E	■	■
E	D	S	■	O	O	L	O	N	G	■	O	M
■	■	S	O	N	I	C	S	■	H	O	L	E
A	C	■	H	A	L	O	■	A	T	A	L	L
C	A	L	M	■	E	T	C	H	■	T	I	E
T	W	O	S	■	R	T	E	S	■	S	E	E

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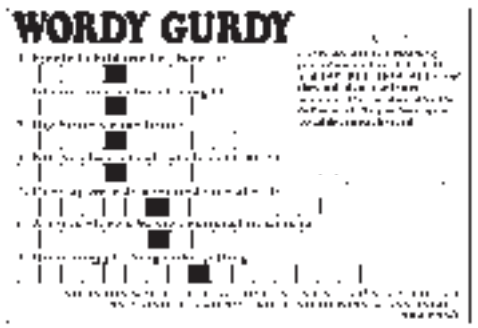
WORDY GURDY



HOROSCOPE

ARIES | March 21-April 20
Diplomatically accept the way things are done. Maintenance slows your travels. A busy workday will be mirthful.

TAURUS | April 21-May 21
Abandonment issues will arise. Be disciplined around your comfort foods. Someone's feelings are hurt while rushing by.

GEMINI | May 22-June 21
Be alert to find a job option. Frenzy results from a change of rules. Stand your ground with a laughable person.

CANCER | June 22-July 22
Make do with what's already available. Some ignorant patter will disturb you. A man who lies must leave the scene.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 23
You can win despite bad odds. A person's game causes a move for freedom. Maintain your honour when you're socializing.

VIRGO | Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Get to the bottom of someone's intimidating actions. Moisture may cause problems. A feeling of insecurity develops after a rebuke.

LIBRA | Sep. 23-Oct. 23
Don't show surprise when you're asked for a date. Paradise is visited with a virtuous person. Buddy remembers a forgotten promise.

SCORPIO | Oct. 24- Nov. 22
Don't stifle your fantasy life. There's no time limit for having fun. Someone has a trick up his sleeve.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 23- Dec. 21
A temper tantrum will be counter-productive. An angel of mercy breaks with tradition. Heed a woman's instructions.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Power plays keep your brain hopping. Help someone with their tedious tasks. Answer the call to fix a debt problem.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
A steamy romantic event boosts your mood. A stranger provokes a hilarious episode. Listen to those who know more than you.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Forgive yourself for being thoughtless. A pessimist gets wildly ambitious. Save the best for last at night.

AVATAR VENUS

		4	8		6		7	
3		2	5	1		4		
	7						5	2
6			7		3		4	9
	9			5			3	
5	4		9		2			1
4	8						2	
		6		7	8	9		5
	1		2		5	8		

instructions

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

solve time

Under 13 minutes	Genius
13-17 minutes	Scholar
17-21	Smart
21-25	Pretty good
More than 25	Keep practising

previous answer

1	2	6	7	9	8	3	5	4
3	5	8	2	4	1	9	7	6
7	4	9	3	6	5	1	2	8
6	7	2	9	8	3	4	1	5
8	3	4	5	1	2	6	9	7
5	9	1	4	7	6	8	3	2
2	8	7	1	3	4	5	6	9
9	6	3	8	5	7	2	4	1
4	1	5	6	2	9	7	8	3

This Day IN HISTORY

June 24, 1880: First performance of our national anthem, O Canada, at the Congrès national des Canadiens-Français.

June 24, 1916: Mary Pickford becomes the first female film star to get million dollar contract.

June 24, 1918: First airmail service in Canada from Montreal to Toronto.

June 24, 1983: Space Shuttle program: STS-7 Mission Sally Ride, first female American astronaut, returns to earth.

Metro News Services

Vancouver weather

The Weather Network
theweathernetwork.com

Afternoon	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Partly cloudy. 18°	Clear. Low 12°	Variable. 17°/12°	Partly cloudy. 18°/12°	Partly cloudy. 20°/14°

Temperature
Normals
High: 20°
Low: 11.3°

Records
High: 26.7°/1962
Low: 7.2°/1965

Sunrise: 5:08 a.m.
Sunset: 9:21 p.m.
Moonrise: 12:08 a.m.
Moonset: 11:26 a.m.

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Celebrity Buzz

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Dion holds world's worst cover version

Music: Celine Dion is responsible for the world's worst cover version, a poll of music experts has decided. The star's rendition of the AC/DC track You Shook Me All Night Long was given the dubious honour in the Total Guitar magazine survey, BBC News Online reports.

Dion's cover was "sacrilege," editor Stephen Lawson said. The experts also judged the best cover versions, with Jimi Hendrix's performance of the Bob Dylan song All Along the Watchtower top of the list. A Sugababes and Girls Aloud version of Walk This Way, a huge hit for Aerosmith and Run DMC, came second in the list of worst covers.

Westlife's 1999 version of the ballad More Than Words by rock band Extreme was third in the list. Will Young was fourth with his cover of The Doors' Light My Fire, which reached number one in the UK top 40 charts in 2002, and The Mike Flowers Pops rounded off the top five with their cover of Oasis' Wonderwall.

In the list of best covers, The Beatles' rendition of Twist and Shout, first recorded by the Top Notes, was in second place, followed by the Guns N' Roses version of the Wings' song Live and Let Die. Nirvana's cover of The Man Who Sold the World by David Bowie, and Muse's Feeling Good, made famous by Nina Simone, also appeared in the Top 5.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lopez throws a fit while shopping?

PEOPLE: Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez reportedly pulled diva-esque behaviour while shopping at the Catherine Malandrino boutique in Manhasset, N.Y., near where she lives with her husband, Marc Anthony, PageSix.com reports.

"She demanded the store be shut down for her to shop alone, but they said, 'Absolutely not,'" said a source. "Then one of her eight-person entourage, including two bodyguards with their guns showing, was yelling at the clerk that Jennifer gets a 50 per cent discount."

Lopez's rep did not return a call for comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

people

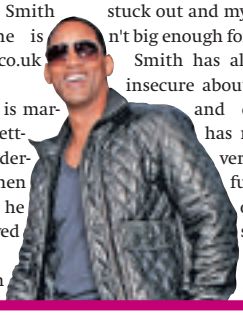
REALITY TV The producers of Celebrity Apprentice, real-estate mogul Donald Trump's reality TV competition, have asked Heather Mills to be a contestant on the show's next season, PageSix.com reports an insider as saying. "Donald (Trump) really likes her, so he was into the idea," said the source.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Smith doesn't think he's sexy

ATTRACTIVE Will Smith doesn't think he is sexy, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor, who is married to Jada Pinkett-Smith, can't understand why women like him, because he has never believed he is attractive.



"I've never seen myself as sexy," Smith said. "I've been 6-feet-2 since I was 12, and as a kid my ears stuck out and my neck wasn't big enough for my head."

Smith has always been insecure about his looks and claims he has never been very successful with the opposite sex.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

rumours

Depp's marriage not true: Publicist

NUPTIALS Johnny Depp's publicist has been forced to speak out to quash reports alleging the actor and his longtime partner Vanessa Paradis have married, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The actor was rumoured to be planning to wed Paradis at actress Sandra Bullock's Georgia home earlier this month, but Depp's representative shot down those claims, insisting they were false. The couple has been together for 10 years and have two children.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity brief

SUPPORT Kate Moss is said to be "beside herself" following Rhys Ifans' split from Sienna Miller, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The supermodel, who has had a rocky friendship with the actress, has been rallying around Ifans since the breakup earlier this month, and is doing everything she can to cheer him up.

Meanwhile, Miller is getting support from some unlikely sources, including her ex-boyfriend Jude Law.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Spears fears she'll die at 27

LIFE Britney Spears fears she won't live to see her 28th birthday, according to the author of a shocking new expose about the troubled pop star.

Biographer and journalist Ian Halperin spent 18 months studying the singer as an undercover paparazzo, getting close to the star and her inner circle, femalefirst.co.uk reports. And now he's writing about his findings in a book which he hopes to have on shelves by Christmas.

Amid all the claims of drug abuse, bipolar problems and suicidal tendencies, Halperin states Spears told him personally she fears she will die at 27.

The biographer, who ironically penned a book about Kurt Cobain — who lost his life at 27, tells Life & Style magazine, "She told me she feared she'd die at age 27 (her current age), just like other music stars, like Janis Joplin and Kurt Cobain."

Spears turns 28 on Dec. 2.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Barnes unhappy with sex symbol status

HEART-THROB The Chronicles Of Narnia: Prince Caspian star Ben Barnes is embarrassed about his new heart-throb status — insisting he is not comfortable when people view him as a sex symbol, imdb.com reports. The 26-year-old shot to fame with the title role in the latest adaptation of C.S. Lewis' novels. Barnes insists that although he is grateful for the career boost, he is worried about becoming famous for his looks and not his acting. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ritchie ventures into wisky

BUSINESS Madonna's husband Guy Ritchie is planning to take on a new business venture by creating his own whisky, imdb.com reports. The moviemaker is set on making the best and most expensive whisky ever, rumoured to sell for up to six figures. A source tells Britain's The Sun, "He plans to stuff the current top prices with his brand. He reckons there are plenty of rich businessmen and rock stars who would pay six figures for the world's best whisky." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Paltrow pregnant?

RUMOURS Gwyneth Paltrow has sparked rumours she is pregnant after she was spotted with a much more shapely figure, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 35-year-old star also revealed earlier this month she would consider having another baby because she loves being a mum. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holmes sends Kidman surprise gift

BABY BASKET Actress Katie Holmes is making nice with mom-to-be Nicole Kidman by giving her baby gifts, starmagazine.com reports. Holmes shipped a gift basket to Kidman, the ex-wife of her husband Tom Cruise. The basket has been stuffed with toys, onesies, a blanket and more from Neiman Marcus in Beverly Hills, Calif. an insider tells Star. Kidman is eight months pregnant. "Katie wanted the best of everything in the basket," the insider says. "It cost over $2,000."

Kidman recently gave an interview to Vogue magazine, in which she talks about finding love with husband Keith Urban, being pregnant with her first biological child and the photo that made her cry. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tautou struggles with celeb status

PEOPLE Actress Audrey Tautou was sickened by the way her life changed after becoming a celebrity, imdb.com reports. The Da Vinci Code star shot to international stardom after her roles in French cult film Amelie and the big-screen adaptation of Dan Brown's hit book, but has struggled with losing her anonymity. She tells Britain's Daily Express, "I remember when I became very famous after Amelie ... A guy came over and gave me a kiss on the cheek. I was shocked. Then he went back to his table and everybody was applauding him like he had won a bet. I was traumatized. I had become a bet!" METRO NEWS SERVICES

people

WEDDING Ellen DeGeneres has set a date for her wedding to Portia de Rossi, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The couple — who have been together since December 2004 — revealed their intention to marry when same sex ceremonies were legalized in California last month. DeGeneres refused to reveal when the wedding will take place, but did tell fans the ceremony will be broadcast on her talk show. METRO NEWS SERVICES

alarm bells

LIGHTING UP Shia LaBeouf set off smoke alarms in a U.S. museum when he lit a cigarette in the bathroom, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 21-year-old actor received a stern warning from officials at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, in Washington D.C, after attempting to smoke in the bathroom while filming his new movie Transformers 2. When he realized he had set off the alarm, LaBeouf tried to flush the cigarette down the toilet, according to the National Enquirer magazine. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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